



Improving Life  
Opportunities for  
Youth, Families,  
and Communities  
of Color

# Examining the School to Prison Pipeline Symposium

# JA'ISHA AKINS







# ROSS VALLEY REPORTER

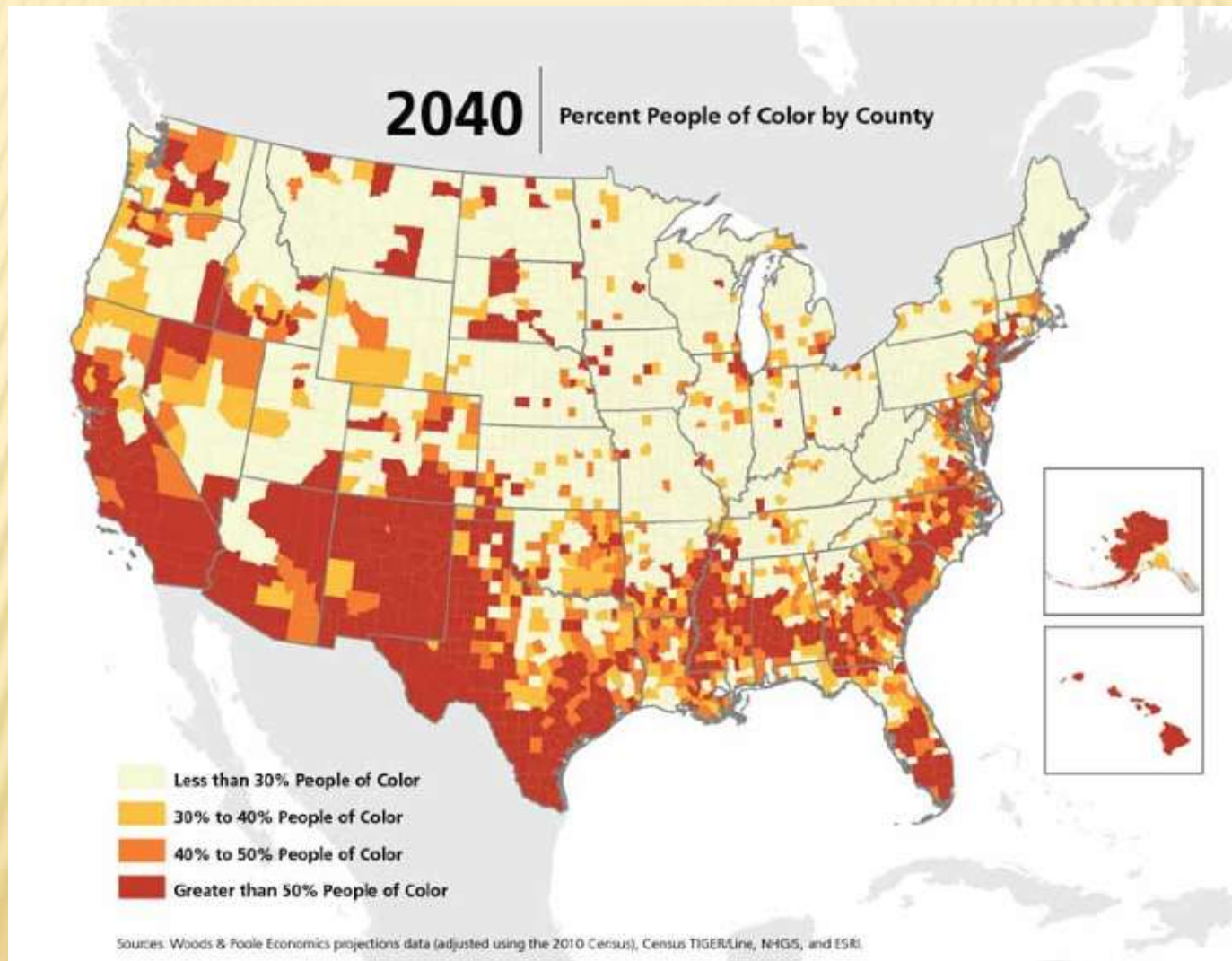
## “GIRLS NIGHT OUT”

- ✗ Five teenage girls were busted during a "girls night out" when California Highway Patrol officers pulled over a Toyota Scion for weaving between lanes on U.S. Highway 101 and found marijuana and alcohol at about 2:20 a.m.
- ✗ Officers found a 15-year-old girl driving the car with a learner's permit only. The other girls were ages 14, 16, and two were 17.
- ✗ Officers searched the car and found marijuana and a mixed drink concealed in an iced tea bottle.
- ✗ The girls told their parents they were spending the night at each other's houses and instead drove to a bar in San Francisco.
- ✗ Officers issued citations to the girls and they were then released to their parents.
- ✗ May 12, 2011





# U.S. DEMOGRAPHICS



# ZERO TOLERANCE: CHILD MISBEHAVIOR TREATED AS CRIME



## ✕ 12-year old gets handcuffed by police for doodling

- + Alexa Gonzalez scrawled on her classroom desk, “I love my friends Abby and Faith. The principal of her junior high school called police, and she was taken across the street to the police precinct.

## + 5-year-old cuffed for temper tantrum

Dennis Rivera was handcuffed to a chair after throwing a temper tantrum in his kindergarten class. Rivera reportedly was having a fit and knocking things off desks, when a school safety agent cuffed his hands behind him while seated in a chair.



# FOUR CORE MYTHS THAT REQUIRE DIRECT ADDRESS

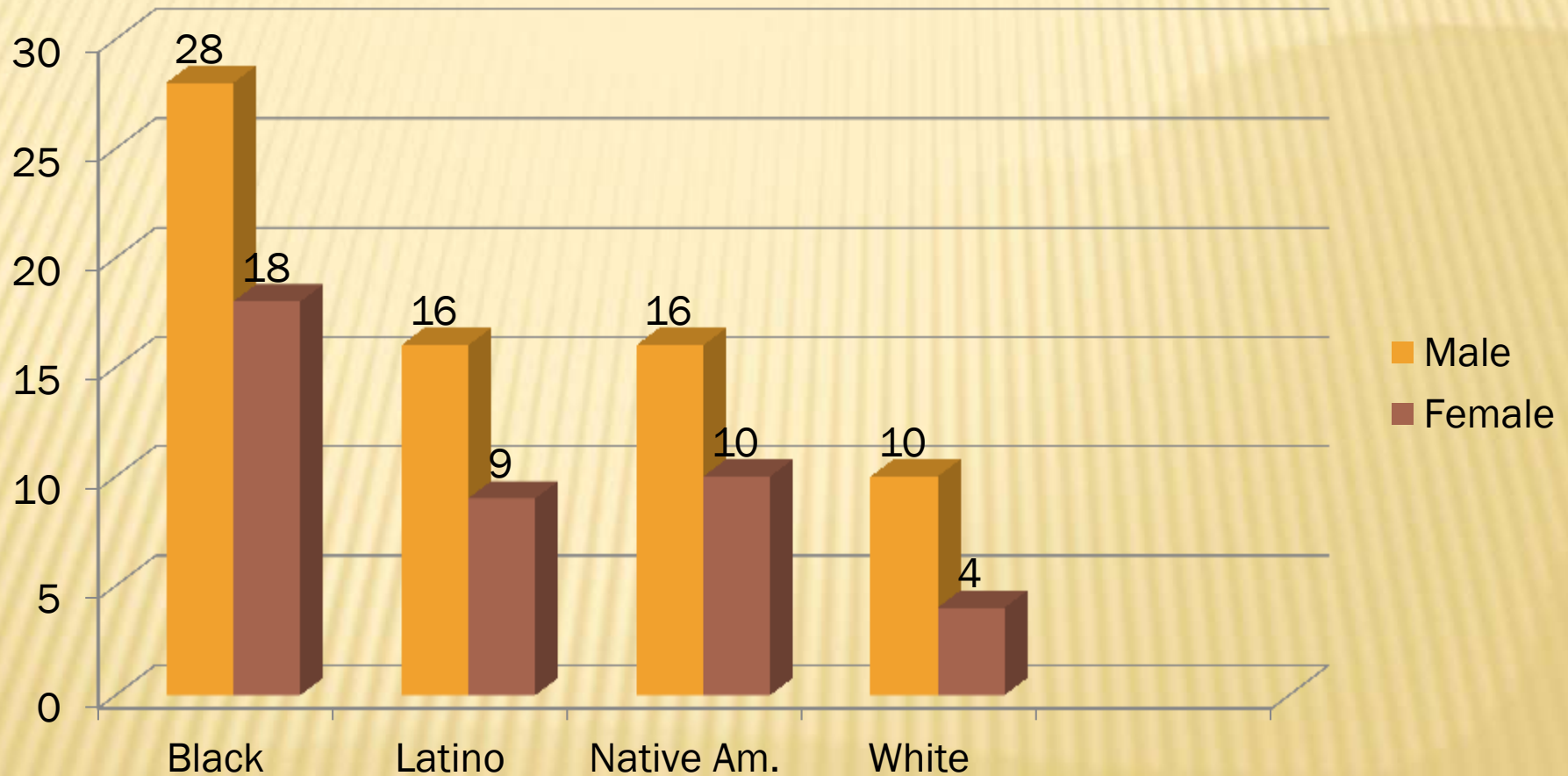
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- ✘ Myth 1: Race categories are biological realities..  
.we are fundamentally different “types of people.”
- ✘ Myth 2: Inequality today is economic, not racial.
- ✘ Myth 3: Some groups are smarter than others.
- ✘ Myth 4: Achievement is a result of “cultures”  
approach to school.

*\*\*this means that just sharing disciplinary disparity data  
is not enough: myths will trump reality!*

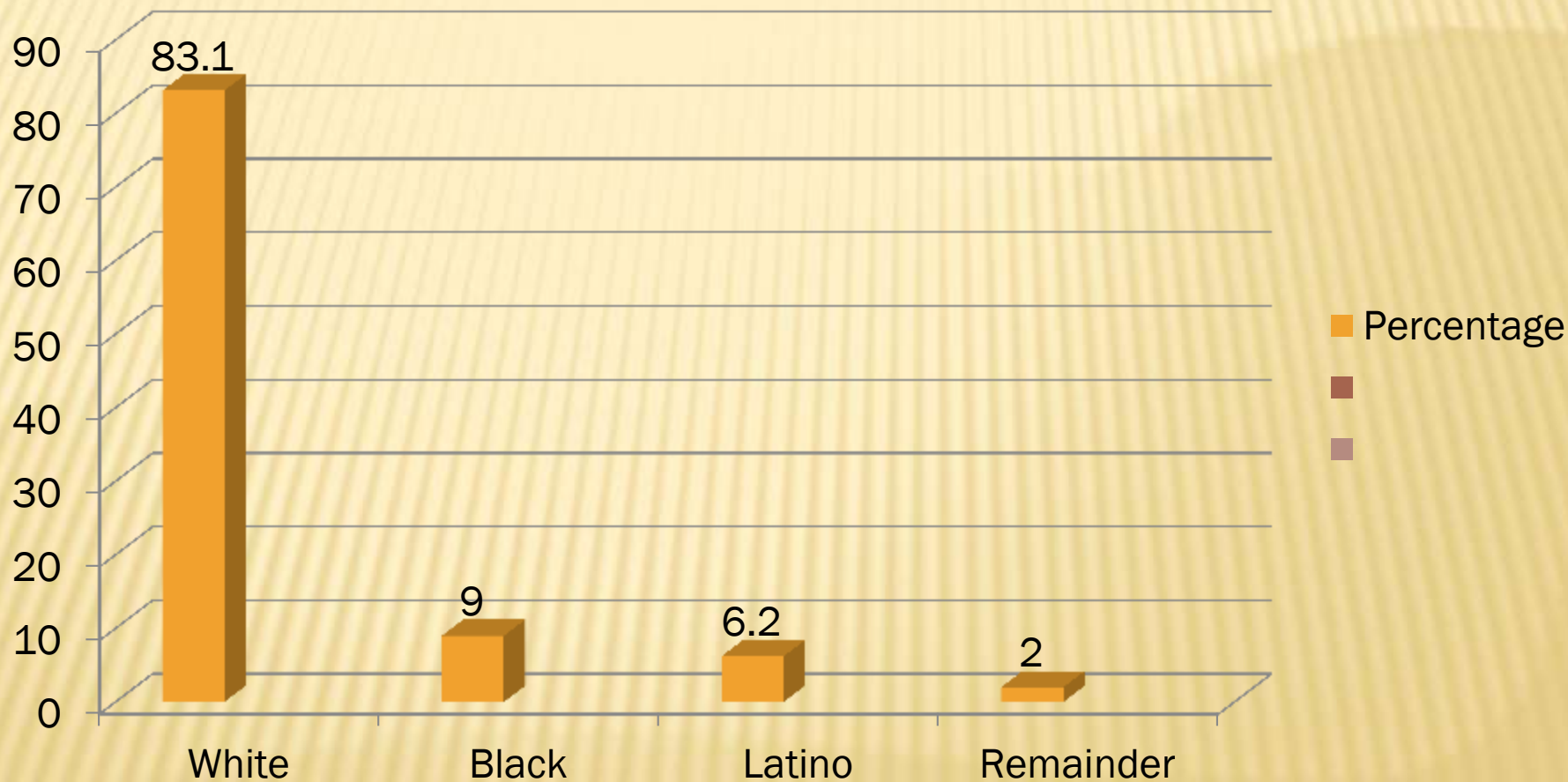


# NATIONAL SCHOOL SUSPENSION RATES BY RACE AND ETHNICITY (MIDDLE SCHOOL)





# TEACHERS BY RACE/ETHNICITY



# REFERRALS BY RACE/ETHNICITY

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## ✕ White Youth

- + Smoking
- + Vandalism
- + Leaving w/o Permission
- + Obscene Language

## ✕ Youth of Color

- + Disrespect
- + Excessive Noise
- + Threat
- + Loitering

# MOST COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF SCHOOL DISCIPLINE AND JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT—JULY 2011



- ✗ 1 Million Students
- ✗ Multi-year longitudinal study
- ✗ Individual School Records
- ✗ 80 Variables Analyzed



# CANDID TEACHER TESTIMONIALS

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- ✗ It's just something about the way they act... they are loud, rude, disrespectful and out of control. I just want them out of my classroom so I can teach the students who do want to learn

# SCHOOL TO PRISON

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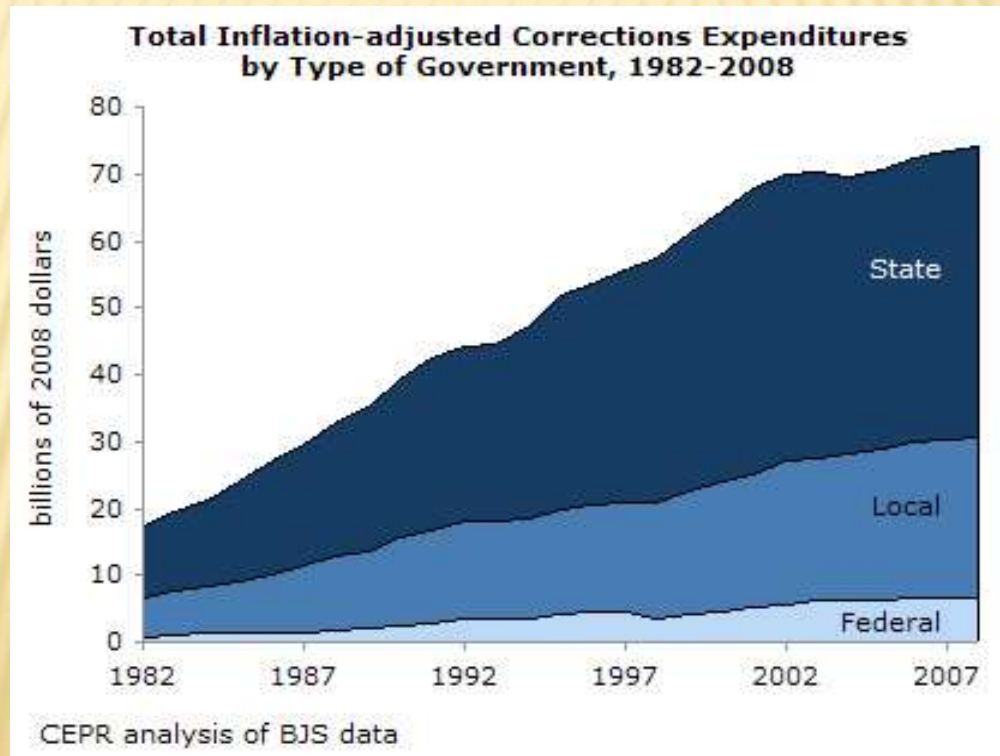
- ✖ 40% of high school drop-outs are Black or Latino
- ✖ 2000 High Schools Produce 50% of dropouts
- ✖ School Climate
- ✖ 5.7 Billion on Youth Justice (JPI)  
(Misdemeanors)
- ✖ 303% Rise in justice spending in last two decades (Pew)

# COST OF INCREASED INCARCERATION

✗ State correctional spending increased fourfold:

1988                      \$11.7 billion

2008                      \$47.3 billion





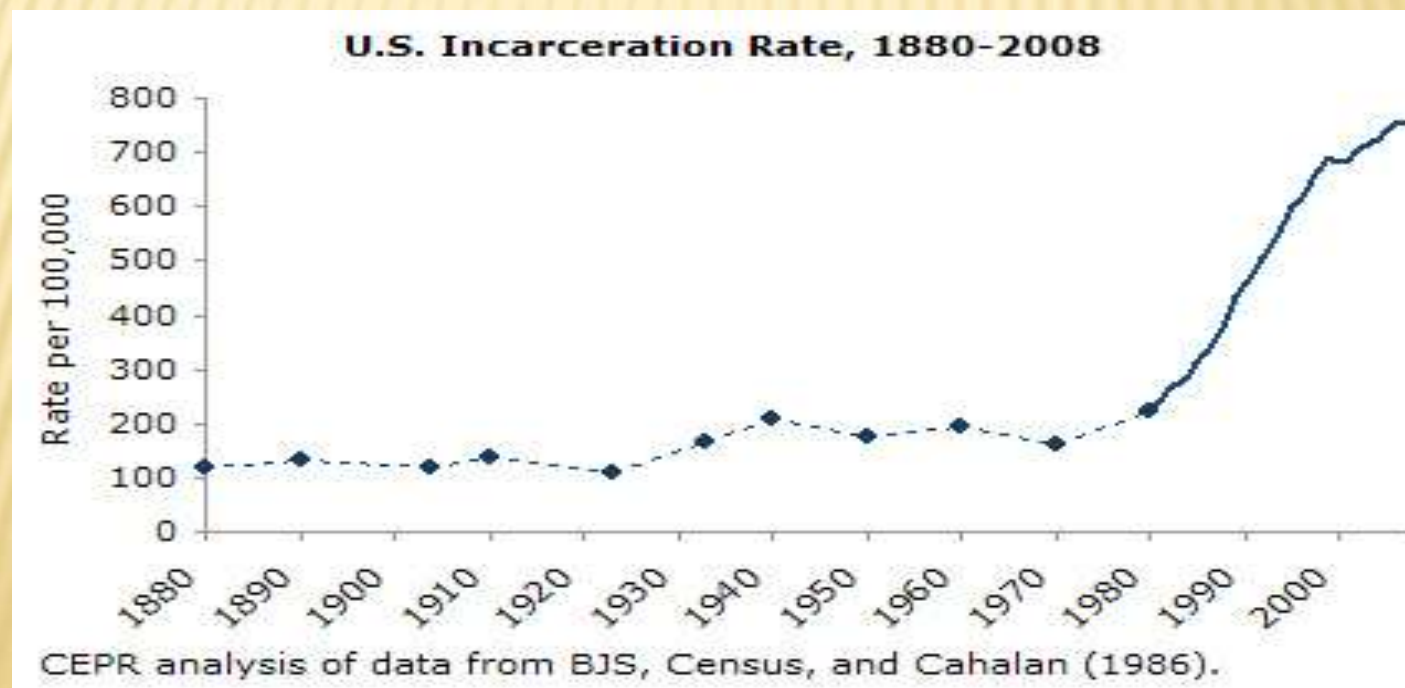
# OUR CRIMINAL SENTENCING PROBLEM

## Total Correctional Population Behind Bars

1982	2,194,000
2008	7,308,200

## Total Pop.

1982	612,000
2008	2,304,000

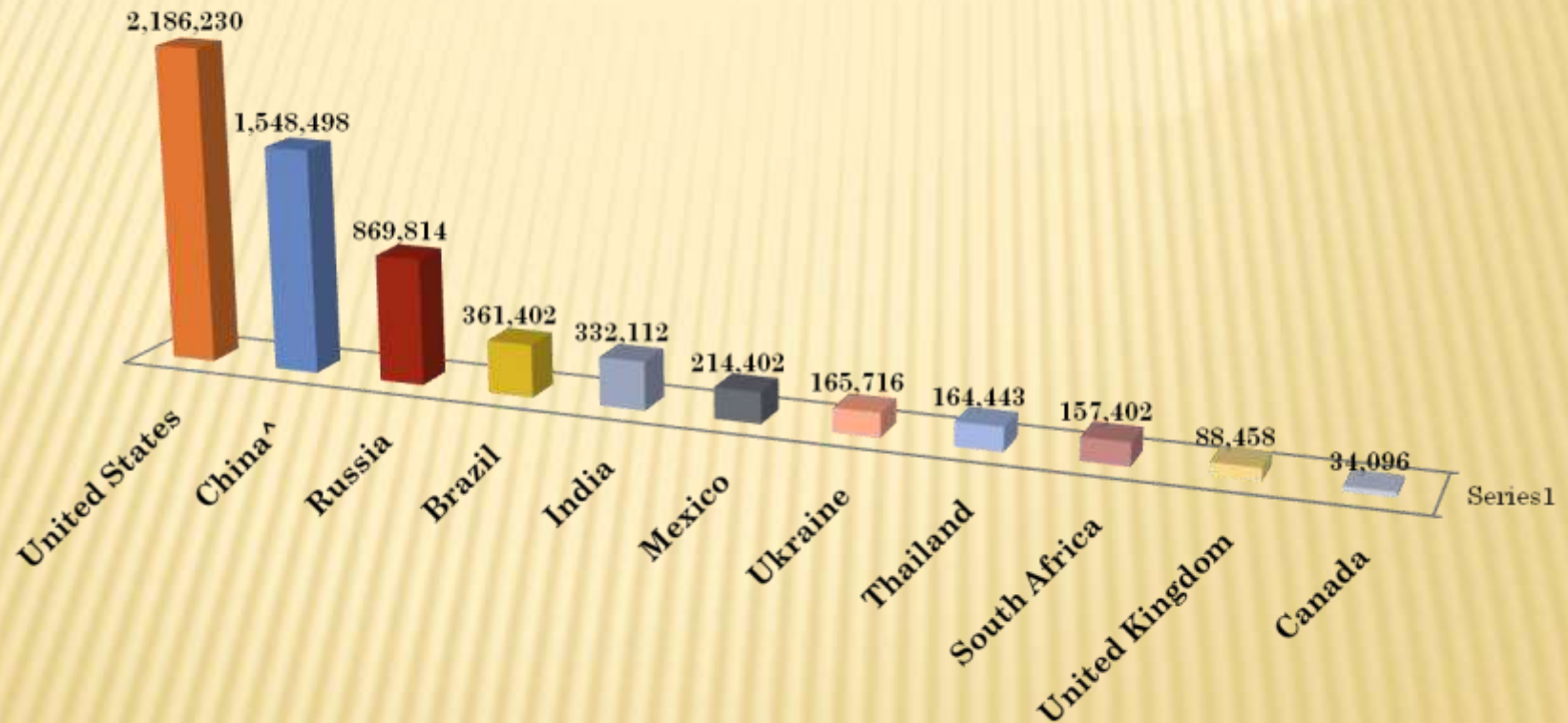


# THE UNITED STATES RANKS FIRST IN THE WORLD IN THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS.

**^NOTE: CHINA'S DATA DOES NOT INCLUDE PEOPLE IN LABOR CAMPS.**

## Prison Population for Selected Countries

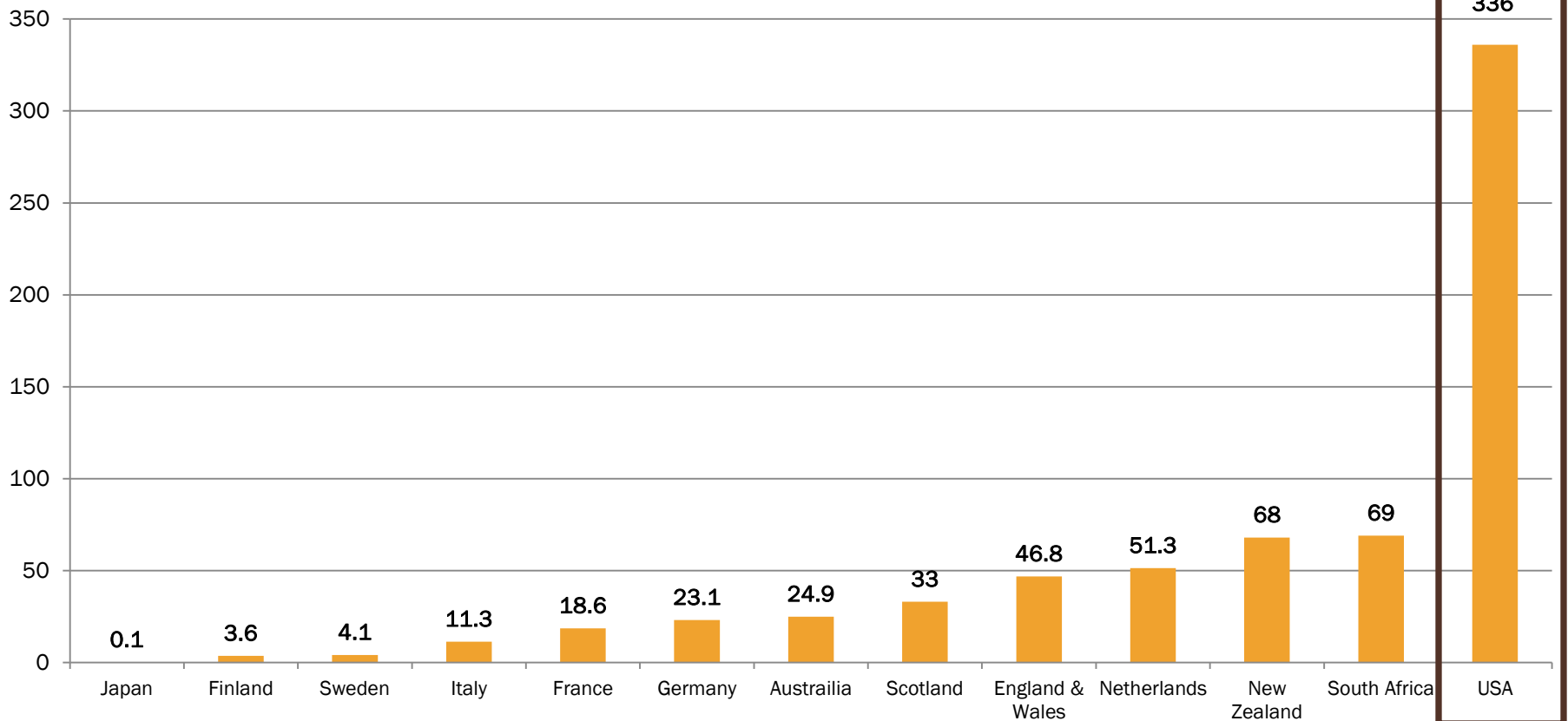
*United Nations Development Programme, 2007*



# YOUTH INCARCERATION RATES

## Youth Incarceration Rates: USA vs. Other Nations

(Per 100,000 in Youth Population)



Source: Hazel, Neal, *Cross-National Comparison of Youth Justice*, London: Youth Justice Board (2008) as cited in *The Annie E. Casey Foundation "No Place for Kids" (2011).*



# 6 YEAR OLD BOY

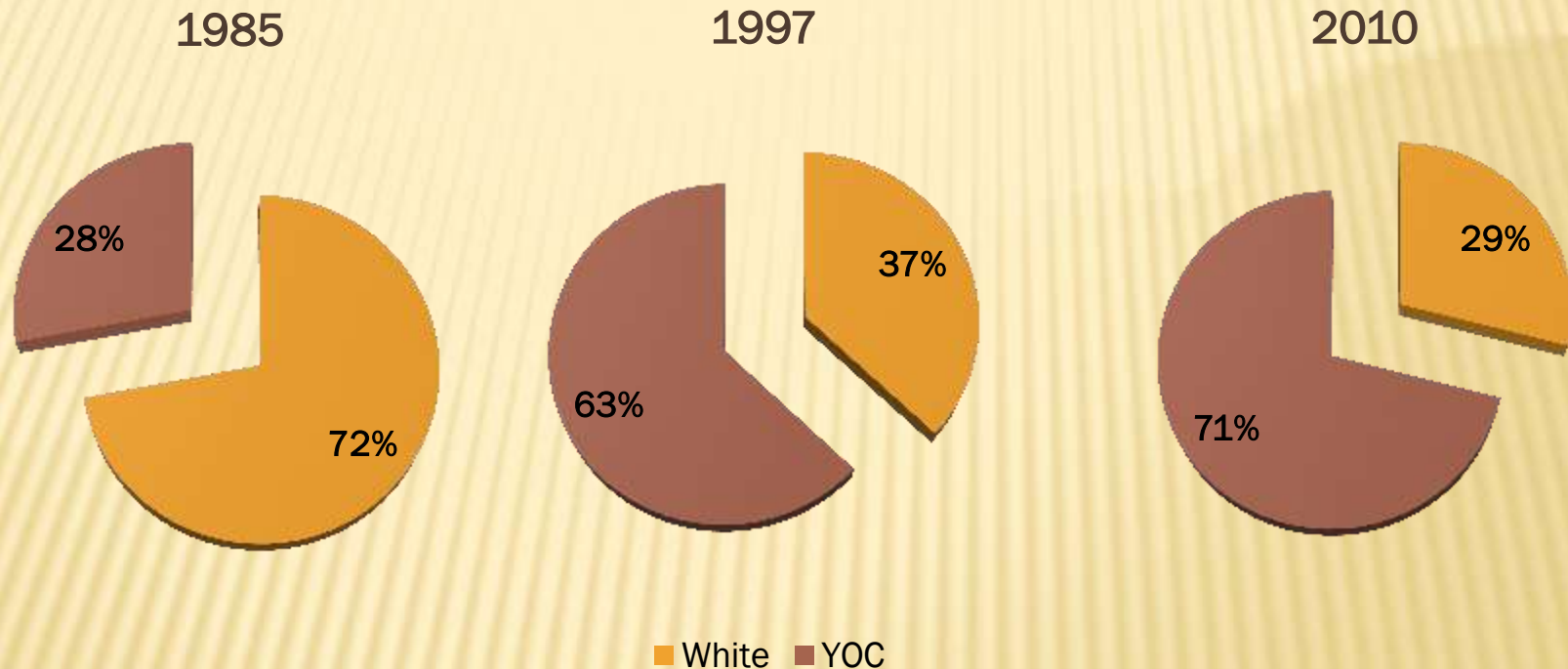
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- ✘ Grant County authorities have accused a 6-year-old boy of first-degree sexual assault of a child for allegedly playing “doctor” with a 5-year-old girl in September.
- ✘ The case, which is plowing new legal ground in Wisconsin, calls into question when a child’s act can be considered criminal — particularly when it involves behavior some experts say is normal for children that age — and who makes that determination.



# NATIONAL DATA: SHIFT IN COMPOSITION OF PUBLIC DETENTION CENTERS

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**Detention of youth of color has increased since 1985. By 2010, more than 70% of detained youth nationwide were youth of color.**

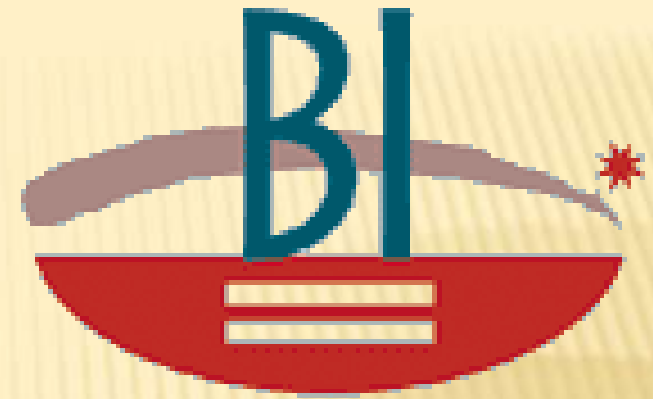
Source: Census of Public and Private Juvenile Detention, Correctional and Shelter Facilities, 1985.  
Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, 1997 & 2010.



# Police Department Gang Instruction

Not all gang members are obvious in their dress or manner. Asian gangs, for example, are not immediately recognizable by their attire. Also, they may not display gang characteristics while in school. They are respectful to staff, do not disrupt activities, do not drop out of school and maintain their grades. In such cases, gang affiliation is often not known until a criminal incident occurs.





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